

Letter from the BOARD OF HEALTH to Cummington residents

February, 2014

Here's an update of Board of Health recent activities, plans, and considerations. Your feedback is welcome.

TRANSFER STATION:

- The extensive re-design of the transfer station was put on hold after bids were received on September 5, 2013. The lowest bid exceeded the approved budget of \$205,000.
- Immediately, the Board of Health put together a simplified list of renovations and purchases that will total less than \$100,000.
- Emergency repairs were conducted in late-September. The pump could not fully operate due to lack of oil-pressure and debris underneath that obstructed the piston. A new pump was ordered, anticipating the overheated pump wouldn't last long.
- By November, the pump was not pushing at all. On November 14th and 15th, a new pump was installed and the entire system was fine-tuned to run smoothly.
- There was severe rodent damage on the wiring, and the electrician reported some insulation was so badly chewed, a potential fire was imminent.
- The building was repaired and access was given to the compactor's pump so it can now be oiled and maintained. A type of insulation that doesn't attract rodents was used, and the roof was repaired.
- New procedures are being put into place for the attendants to maintain equipment and keep the area clean.
- During the work, Charlie Clines, a representative of the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) came to the site, viewed the progress of the work, and spoke favorably about the tentative plans.
- Site work will begin in the spring of 2014, prior to installation of a new, additional compactor for single-stream recyclables that will replace the existing bin for plastics, cans, and glass. Paper will be collected and compacted together with plastics and glass, eliminating the existing paper bin.

New guidelines for Transfer Station attendants and residents using the Transfer Station:
Attendants provide advice on where items go, but unloading your car is your responsibility.

If you have construction debris, check with an attendant before unloading, to determine the charges owed. Disposal rates are enclosed for your easy-reference.

Payments can be made at the on-site office for contractor-bin items, bag-tags, and window-stickers.

Bag tags not sticking to the bags? Wrap the tag around the neck of the bag so both ends of the tag can touch each other, adhesive-to-adhesive. That works much better!

DISPOSAL BOXES FOR SHARPS:

The improper disposal of hypodermic needles and other "sharps" presents a hazard to anyone handling trash containing these items. The Board now offers quart-size disposal boxes, available FREE OF CHARGE to anyone who regularly discards these items. See the Transfer Station secretary to get these disposal boxes, or to turn in full boxes.

TOWN SEPTIC PUMPING PROGRAM:

The Board is looking for septic system contractors willing to offer a group discount for participating residents to have their septic system pumped, if there is sufficient interest among residents. If interested, talk with the Transfer Station secretary.

Sincerely,

Board of Health members: Judith Bogart (Chairperson), Jack Earls, Roger Gunn